

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON 2787

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155865

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 1454 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
GENEVA 10 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1454

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS
SUBJ: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: STATE 119953

1. AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY FADL OBEID
JUNE 19 RE OUR CONCERN AT ANY ATTEMPT INCLUDE PRG IN SUBJECT
CONFERENCE. NOTING HE SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR
SAID QUESTION PARTICIPATION IN COMING LUCERNE MEETING HAD,
IN OUR VIEW, BEEN DECIDED AT RECENT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON
HUMANITARIAN LAW. WHILE LUCERNE MEETING BEING SPONSORED
BY ICRC, ITS TITLE MADE CLEAR IT WAS CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT
RPT GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. PRG DID NOT POSSESS ATTRIBUTES OF
SOVEREIGNTY. WE NEVERTHELESS UNDERSTOOD ICRC HAD REOPENED
ISSUE IN CIRCULAR TO GOVERNMENTS. EMBASSY HAD BEEN ASKED
MAKE CLEAR TO FONMIN USG HOPE THAT SUDAN WOULD REPLY TO
ICRC NOTE THAT IT OPPOSED THE PRG PARTICIPATION. OBEID
REPLIED HE HAD NOT YET SEEN ICRC CIRCULAR BUT PRESUMED IT
WAS BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE GENEVA.
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HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND TOOK CAREFUL NOTE THAT CONFERENCE

RESTRICTED TO "GOVERNMENT EXPERTS". OBEID DECLINED SPECULATE RE
GOS POSITION
PENDING RECEIPT ICRC COMMUNICATION.

2. COMMENT: LACKING CABINET STATUS AND WITH HIS MINISTER OUTSIDE
SUDAN FAR MORE THAN INSIDE, OBEID FOLLOWS GENERAL PRACTICE NOTING
SUCH DEMARCHES WITHOUT BEING IN POSITION PROVIDE FORMAL GOS
RESPONSE. MOREOVER, HE FULLY AWARE SUDANESE POLICY IS
IN GENERAL TO CONFORM TO THAT OF OTHER NONALIGNED STATES ON
SUCH A QUESTION9 THEREFORE BELIEVE OUR BEST HOPE RE SUDAN
IS THAT CUSTOMARY GOS BUREAUCRATIC BUMBLING WILL RESULT IN
SUDANESE FAILURE REPLY TO ICRC CIRCULAR.
BREWER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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